

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig 5 and 7, which replace the original sheet including Figs. 5 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement sheets
 Annotated sheets showing changes

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 29, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 14, and 19 are amended to overcome minor informalities, and thus the claim amendments do not narrow the scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-22 are pending for examination and reconsideration.

The Office Action objects to the specification based on minor informalities. A substitute specification has been attached to replace the original specification, which corrects the minor informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also objects to the drawings based on minor informalities. Replacement sheets containing Figs. 5 and 7 are attached, and also the annotated sheets are attached to show where the corrections have been made. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further objects to the claims based on minor informalities. Claims 1, 8, 14, and 19 have been amended to correct the minor informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also provisionally rejects claims 1-4, 8-11 and 14-22 under obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4, 9-12, 14 and 18 of copending application No. 10/683,443.

Applicant submits a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: March 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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FIG. 7

